



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Sen. Brown, Rep. Shaffer announce U.S. 131 project is a 'go' *Transportation project will mean economic stimulation and job opportunities for southwestern Michigan*

LANSING – Sen. Cameron S. Brown and Rep. Rick Shaffer today announced an agreement had been reached with the governor's office to restore a significant portion of the funding for improvements to a key stretch of U.S. 131.

Brown, R-Fawn River Township, and Shaffer, R-Three Rivers, said the U.S. 131 agreement is good news for southwestern Michigan because it will have a significant impact on the region's economy.

"This is tremendous news for southwestern Michigan," said Brown, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, who has helped ensure the project was included in the last two MDOT budgets. "This project will have a tremendous economic impact on communities all along this vital stretch of U.S. 131. Concerned residents pulled together to let Lansing know how important this project is and I am glad that all of our hard work has finally paid off."

Shaffer concurred: "This is big and exciting news for southwest Michigan as many have been anxiously awaiting a decision on the U.S. 131 proposal. This money for the infrastructural improvements was a grassroots endeavor by businesses, organizations and individuals, which will hopefully bring us our upgraded highway. Many proposed businesses have looked at coming to our area and have been turned away because of the lack of infrastructure. What once was a dismal day back in October looks very bright today."

The agreement will allow for \$31 million in improvements along U.S. 131 from the Michigan-Indiana border to north of the city of Three Rivers.

"Today's announcement is about driving job creation in Michigan and paving the way for growth all across our state," Gov. Jennifer Granholm said. "From going anywhere and doing anything to attract jobs to Michigan, to investing in the infrastructure that supports commerce, we have a targeted economic road map, and it's moving Michigan in the right direction."

Lawmakers will implement the legislation needed for these projects in the next few weeks.

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